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IN VACATION.

Sad and Dry.—A crowd about a rigging attracted the attention of sad-eyed individual who seemed to be still visibly affected by the succession of hang-overs that had marked his life before the long dry spell began.

"Whatsa matter?" he inquired.

"Oh, we're just watching the work."

"What work?"

"This is a drilling machine."

"What are they drilling for?"

"Water."

As the shaky individual turned to move away he muttered with fervor most intense:

"And to think we'd ever come to this."—*Youngs'own Telegram.*

"You Can't Beat the Irish."—"Biddy," remarked the newlywed Irishman, "go down and feed the pigs."

"Faith, and I will not," replied the bride.

"Don't be after contradicting me, Biddy," retorted the husband. "Haven't I just endowed you with all my wordly goods, and if you cannot feed your own property, then it's ashamed of you I am."

This was a new point of view, so off Biddy went.

Presently she returned.

"Have you fed the pigs, Biddy?" demanded her husband sternly.

"Faith, and I have not," she answered. "I have done a great deal better. As they were my own property, I have sold them, so they'll trouble me no more."—*London Telegraph.*

BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

Pleading and Practice in Actions at Common Law.—By 'Martin P. Burks, LL.B., LL.D. Second Edition by C. H. Morrisett, LL.B. Published and for sale by Surber-Arundale Company, Inc., Publishers, Printers and Stationers, Charlottesville, Va. Price up to January 1st, 1922, \$13.50; after that \$15, carriage prepaid.

We do not believe any law book has been published in this country in the last decade which will be hailed with as much pleasure by Virginia lawyers as this new edition of Burks' Pleading. The first edition we can with all confidence assert has been the constant desk companion of every lawyer in the state who was engaged in active practice and was used in court about as often as consulted in

chambers. The Code of 1919 and statutes passed since 1912 have rendered a new edition almost essential and we welcome Mr. Morrisett's work with unalloyed satisfaction. He has carefully noted every change in the law and wherever such a change in the original work was rendered necessary he has made it without any loss in the character and reliability of the work. Mr. Morrisett was peculiarly fitted for this work, studying law under Judge Burks he became associated with him and the other revisors of the Code of 1919 and he also revised the annotations of that work. He was thus thoroughly familiar with the many and important changes wrought by the revision in our statute law and has used his knowledge to the best effect in this work. The arrangement of topics when a change became necessary is admirable and the new index is a decidedly helpful addition in every respect. The book in our judgment will prove itself invaluable to students, teachers and lawyers throughout this Commonwealth and wherever Common Law Pleading is still in use.

Cases on the Law of Contracts, selected from the decisions of English and American Courts, by Arthur L. Corbin, Hotchkiss Professor of Law in Yale University, American Case Book Series, William Vance, General Editor, St. Paul, Minn., West Publishing Co., 1921.

When the writer came to the Bar—more years ago than he is now willing to admit—to speak of a practitioner as a “case lawyer” was to use a phrase wellnigh of contempt. There were only 66 volumes of Virginia Reports and in the State Courts the 85 volumes of United States Reports were rarely used. Now the “case” is the thing, not only to “catch the conscience” of the judge, but to justify him in his rulings and the text book is wellnigh relegated to a very subordinate place. Whether this is for the better or not we shall not attempt to say, but the fact is undisputed. The “case system” has come to stay and is now used in the law schools and in the courts until a thorough understanding of it is a necessary part of a lawyer's equipment. Under these circumstances the West Publishing Company has prepared and put upon the market a very admirable series of “Case Books,” many of which have been heretofore reviewed in the REGISTER. The selection and arrangement of the cases in these books has been excellently done and the present volume on Contracts is, we think, an advance on its valuable predecessors. The work is carefully done: the cases well selected and the arrangement leaves nothing to be desired. While intended in its inception for use in the Law Schools and for Law Students, its value is wellnigh as great to the practitioner who will find ready to his hand a starting point in his investigation upon any question connected with the subject.